

AT THE PLAY HOUSE

The event in which fashionable theatergoers are more interested than any that has preceded it for some time is the engagement of the Lillian Russell opera company at the Grand to-morrow, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. She is to present "La Cigale" at the first two performances and "The Mountebanks" Wednesday evening. Nature and art have combined to equip Miss Russell with graces and gifts that demand a recognition from all who see and hear her. As a vocal artist, pure and simple, setting aside all the charms of person and the attractions incidental to the magnificent stage surroundings and elegant costumes of "La Cigale," Miss Russell easily holds the foremost place in this country on the opera comique stage. A rarely musical voice, fine taste and artistic feeling, all combine to make her a vocal artist who can be listened to with satisfaction by the most critical, and each and all of her numbers in the performance call out a most enthusiastic response from her audience. The vocal score in the music of the title role has been strengthened by the interpolation of a tuneful "Summer Song," music by T. Pearson Thorne, and a pretty vocal gavotte by Jesse Williams, both of which are admirably suited to Miss Russell's voice. In her impersonation of "Marion" there is said to be vivacity and dramatic strength, and the strong scene of the last act is given very effectively.



Lillian Russell.

Mr. Louis Harrison has the burden of the comedy element of the production in the role of Matthew, the uncle of La Cigale, who subsequently becomes her manager, and his labors in this duty can be much commended. The cast enlists C. Hayden Coffin, William T. Carleton and others. Mr. Coffin is the famous English baritone, who was brought to this country especially for this opera. The Russell company, which includes 125 people, will arrive here from St. Louis on a special train of nine cars at 6 o'clock this evening. It carries all the elaborate special scenery employed in the production at the Garden Theater, New York.

"The Mountebanks," which Miss Russell and her company are to present Wednesday night, is said to be something of a novelty in the way of comic opera. The libretto was written by W. S. Gilbert (of Gilbert & Sullivan) and the music by Alfred Cellier. It had a long run in London, and the Russell company will take it to New York late this month to run the rest of the season there. It will be given an elaborate production here.

Frank Mayo in "Davy Crockett." It has been nearly twenty years since Frank Mayo first presented "Davy Crockett" on the stage, and for years it was one of the most successful plays on the stage. Mr. Mayo let it rest for a time to appear in other parts, but recently he has taken up "Crockett" again and is duplicating his former success. Mayo is a romantic actor, whose high abilities are well recognized. His impersonation of the honest backwoodsman is decidedly his best characterization. The play is idyllic in character, and although its story is laid in the backwoods, it is totally devoid of the element of sensationalism which characterizes many of the plays of this kind. It is absolutely true to nature and that is the highest development of art. Old stagegoers will recall "Davy Crockett" with pleasure, and to the newer generation is presented in a beautiful and most entertaining play.

Between the acts of the play Tuesday night the election returns will be read from the stage as fast as they are received, complete arrangements having been made to give a satisfactory service in this direction.

The "Power of the Press" at English's.

Mr. Augustus Pitou's elaborate scenic representation of "The Power of the Press," which pleased large audiences here last season, will be seen at English's next Thursday, Friday and Saturday. "The Power of the Press" illustrates a peculiar part of New York life. The central figure is a man who, in a drunken condition, is accused and sentenced to prison.

for another crime. The prison garb clings to him on his release, and he is shunned by his friends. With a resolution to clear himself, he secures the aid of the press and brings the guilty to justice. The story is unfolded with a number of striking tableaux moving clearly and with briskness. The play is set with much more than commonly fine scenery, and is clothed with accuracy and fine taste. There is not a common-place piece of painting, while some of the scenes are excellent examples of the painter's and mechanic's art. In "The Power of the Press" Mr. Pitou has a play which contains every element of popularity. The cast is a large one and thoroughly capable.

Vanderbilt at the Park.

Whallen & Martell's Specialty Company, one of the largest and strongest organizations presenting a vaudeville entertainment, will play at the Park all this week, and the return of this organization, which has always been popular with the patrons of this house, may be expected to result in large audiences all week. Almost every branch of the variety business is represented in this combination, and many of the acts given by this season's company are entirely new. The organization includes Harry and Mildred Boncieve, Professor Abt, illusionist; Burke and Randall, acrobats; Leslie and Collins, song-and-dance men; Ferry, the "frog-man," whose act is a novelty; Kitty Burke, Irish impersonator; the Fancions, Miss Lona Domaine, the star

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The returns from the election will be read from the stage of the Park, as fast as received, Tuesday night.

The New "Devil's Auction."

The "Devil's Auction," a glittering spectacular piece, which is by no means new to Indianapolis, for it has been seen here often, will be presented in its new form at the Grand next Friday and Saturday and Saturday matinee. Since the piece was last seen here it has been entirely rewritten by Mr. Charles H. Yale, and all its ballets, specialties, scenery, costumes, etc., are entirely new. The piece is now given with seven elaborate changes of scenes, the most notable of which are the illuminated laboratory, the garden of the Idols, the cave of Despair, the Palace of the Pasha, and the brilliant transformation. Three new ballets are introduced in the "Devil's Auction," and it gives the "Dance of the Cockles," a feature that added much to its success when it was first presented. Another feature is the "Widows' Dance," in which six demure-looking young women, dressed in sombre black, do a dance that is said to be not entirely consistent with their habiliments of woe. The "Devil's Auction" from a spectacular point of view, is a very brilliant affair, and its performance is full of entertainment.

Another Comic Opera Success.

"The Isle of Champagne," a very elaborate and beautiful comic opera production, comes to English's Monday and Tuesday evenings, the 14th and 15th insts., with Thomas Q. Seabrooke as the star, and a company of eighty people. The opera, or, rather, its book, which is said to be one of the wittiest of the day, is the joint work of Charles Alfred Byrne, the famous critic and journalist, and Louis Harrison, one of the best liked comedians on the American stage. Mr. Byrne has won fame and fortune as the author of "The Pearl of Pekin." "Castles in the Air" and other exceedingly clever librettos, while Mr. Harrison is not only known through his excellent work as a comedian, but further as one of the wittiest writers in contemporary literature. The music of the opera was composed by Mr. W. W. Furst, who is also responsible for the scores of many clever works. Through these facts, it is apparent that the "Isle of Champagne" is the result of the combined labors of three very able men, and its wonderful success since its first presentation leads to the expectancy of a most enjoyable performance. The production in gorgeousness and neatness is said to excel "Wang," and the opera is fully as entertaining.

Empire Theater.

Alexander & Allen's spectacular production, "Black Crook," will appear at the Empire all next week, commencing to-morrow matinee. Besides the well-known spectacle of "Black Crook" seven distinct specialties will be presented. The scenic portion of the play (if such it may be called) is said to be strong, and the dramatic work is in capable hands. All told, the company numbers forty persons. The familiar story of the trials of Endolph, the poor artist, in his love for Lady Agnes, the coming of Hardy Knute and his Satanic Majesty and the terrors and splendors of the recesses of the Hartz mountains are interspersed with some good specialties by the Bowen brothers on the triple bars, the Silvermans in their musical act, Pained in feats of balancing, Matt Gerwin, Irish character, and dancing by Majorie Maxwell and others. The performance closes with a well-arranged transformation scene.

On election night, Nov. 8, an extra midnight performance will be given, at 11:30, when the patrons can receive the election returns and at the same time enjoy the performance. A special wire has been run to the stage of the theater and an operator has been engaged for that night. Seats can be secured at any time after 9 A. M. daily, or by telephone 1263.

Gossip of the Stage.

At English's and the Park next Tuesday night (election night) the latest returns from the election will be read from the



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